

REMARKS

Claims 15, 17, 19-28, 30-38 and 40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 28 and 31 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Roy during the telephone interview held May 6, 2003, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below

As suggested by Examiner Roy during the May 6 telephone interview, claims 28 and 31 are amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 15, 17, 19-28, 30-38 and 40 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:HNS/cfr

Date: May 8, 2003

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